

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

Basham Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2008

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Basham Scores Major Victory in Fight Against Pollution in Downriver Area *DEQ Will Revoke Operating License for Company Leaking Hazardous Waste*

LANSING—Senator Ray Basham's (D-Taylor) fight against environmental pollution in Romulus and the entire Downriver area has culminated in a major blow to known polluter Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS). Basham announced that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) initiated action to revoke EDS's state operating license.

"Revoking the state operating license for this facility is another nail in the coffin in a lengthy battle against this polluter," said Basham. "Through the efforts of area residents, local elected officials and Congressman John Dingell, we've been able to close this facility and stop the release of hazardous waste into our beautiful Downriver area."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently terminated the Underground Injection Control (UIC) permits for the hazardous waste injection wells at EDS. Without the UIC permits, the EDS facility is no longer in compliance with the requirements of the state operating license, allowing the DEQ to proceed with revocation of their state permits.

In 2006, EDS began accepting a variety of liquid hazardous wastes from industrial companies and injecting them into a layer of rock nearly a mile underground. The EPA permits had allowed the Birmingham company to inject the waste into two underground disposal wells. After less than a year of operation, DEQ inspectors found a leak in the surface piping of one well during an October 2006 visit and shut down the facility. Subsequent EPA inspections confirmed the leak and identified numerous other violations of the permit conditions. Shutting down this company and putting an end to their bad environmental practices has been a top priority for Sen. Basham since he first entered the Michigan Legislature, and his efforts have been assisted at the federal level by Congressman Dingell.

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